

LORD MOUNT STEPHEN DIES IN ENGLISH HOME

Pioneer Railroad Constructor
Was First President of
Canadian Pacific.

(By Associated Press)

LONDON, Nov. 30.—Lord Mount Stephen, pioneer railroad constructor in Canada and first president of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, died last night at his country residence, Brockenhurst, at Blandford, Hertfordshire. He was 92 years old.

Lord Mount Stephen (George Stephen), first Baron Mount Stephen, was born on June 5, 1829, at Ferres in Hampshire, England, the son of William Stephen, a carpenter.

The life story of Lord Stephen was a remarkable one. After a period of poverty, he rose rapidly to eminence after he came to Canada in 1860, of pioneer work in railroad construction which culminated in the meeting of the Atlantic and the Pacific by the Canadian Pacific Railway, of the acquisition of a \$100,000 fortune, much of which he gave away to charities, and finally an elevation to peerage in a historic home known as Brockenhurst, Hertfordshire, in England, which had at times been occupied by two Prime Ministers of England, Lord Melbourne and Lord Palmerston.

Played Barefoot in Streets.
As a boy Stephen played barefooted in the streets. His father, who was a shepherd on the nearby bleak moors, and then a draper's clerk, coming to Canada, he entered the store of an uncle in Montreal, a cloth merchant, whom he ultimately bought out. He invested his savings in Bonds of Montreal stock, becoming one of its largest shareholders and finally its president.

About this time Stephen came into business relations with Donald Smith, a cousin, who afterwards became Lord Strathcona. Smith interested him in the construction of a railway to the Canadian West, which he knew through his association with it as president of the Hudson Bay Company.

JAMES LATE J. J. Hill.

Smith and Stephen joined forces with the late J. J. Hill, and the trio acquired the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, which had failed and had fallen into the hands of its Dutch bondholders. The line was built through from St. Paul to Winnipeg.

The most important early venture on the subsequent development of the Canadian West lay in the fact that it made the building of the Canadian Pacific possible, as supplies for the construction gangs operating in the otherwise inaccessible prairie section passed over it. Acknowledgment of his part in the organization and management of the Canadian Pacific came from the shareholders, who elected Stephen the first president of the company, and from the King, who, on recommendation of the government of Canada, conferred a baronetcy on him in 1886 and a peerage in 1891. He retired from the presidency in 1888, and soon afterwards moved to his home in England. Before leaving Canada, Lord Mount Stephen divided his fortune among relatives in Montreal, retaining enough to support him for the rest of his life. Previously he had contributed \$1,000,000 to the founding of the Royal Victoria Hospital of Montreal.

Lord Mount Stephen, whose title became extinct on his death, married in 1843 Anne Charlotte, daughter of Benjamin Kanes of Montreal. She died in 1896. In 1897 he married Glang, daughter of Captain R. G. Tufnell, R. N., of London.

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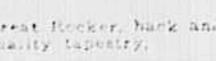
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